

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) Update (KECSAC Annual Report and 2007 Kentucky Performance Report for A6 programs under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 605.110 (3) (a)-(f), KRS 158.135 (2) (a) (b) (4) 137, 505 KAR 1:080, KRS 15A.065

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Kentucky General Assembly enacted the landmark Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) in 1990; however, the needs of state agency children were not specifically addressed. As a result, the Kentucky General Assembly in 1992 passed legislation establishing the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KRS 158.135). In 1994, the eligibility for state agency children was expanded to include those youth located in state-operated and contracted day treatment, group homes, and residential placements. The definition of state agency children was also broadened to include those youth placed or financed through the Cabinet for Families and Children in other residential treatment programs. In 1996 the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was established (KRS 15A.065) and subsequently the responsibility for youthful and public offenders was transferred to the new agency. In 1998, the definition of state agency children was further expanded to include youth in therapeutic foster care and those confined to state-operated juvenile detention facilities.

KRS 158.135 requires that KECSAC report annually to the Chief State School Officer. “The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children shall make to the Chief State School Officer the reports required concerning school services for state agency children and shall file with the Cabinet for Families and Children unit operating or regulating the institution or day treatment center, or contracting for services, in which the children are located a copy of the annual report made to the Chief State School Officer.” The KECSAC Annual Report will be provided under separate cover after it is finalized in mid-September. Staff from the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children will appear at the October meeting to discuss its content.

In recent years the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) has engaged in conversations about the educational services supported through KECSAC. In its April 2005 meeting, the KBE requested that KECSAC programs analyze their CATS data to determine ways to improve educational services to the youth served in these programs. As a result, each

KECSAC program developed a program improvement plan. These improvement plans have established baselines for student academic performance, which can be utilized for continuous program improvement. Additionally, KECSAC staff has used the improvement plans during monitoring visits to determine progress in reaching program goals.

During the 2007-08 school year, KECSAC will require all programs to develop transition plans to assist youth as they enter and/or leave A6 programs. KECSAC is collaborating with Title I program staff in KDE and representatives from DJJ to assure the transition plans are consistent with guidelines and requirements from all agencies. As an extension of this new initiative, KECSAC is offering professional development opportunities where all A6 program administrators will learn about critical components of successful transition plans for youth. All administrative staff in KECSAC programs will be required to participate in this professional development.

The 2007 Kentucky Performance Report (KPR) for A6 programs, including academic indices for elementary, middle and high-school programs, will be provided under separate cover after the public release of the data.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Increasing numbers of Kentucky students are receiving educational services in KECSAC (A6) programs. As these numbers of students grow, the quality of education services they receive in these programs becomes increasingly important in regard to reaching proficiency.

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